

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 00422 120044Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
EUR-12 /033 W

-----120047Z 016523 /63

P R 112310Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO USINFO WASHINGTON PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 326
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 0422

FOR IOP/M, ILA

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. FEBRUARY 6, "SUNDAY GUARDIAN" AND FEBRUARY 9,
"EVENING NEWS" VOICED STRONG EDITORIAL CRITICISM
OF JAMAICA PRIME MINISTER'S REPORTED STATEMENTS
THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA ARE "MARVELOUS EXAMPLES
OF HOW SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EXAMPLES MUST BE SOLVED."

2. UNDER HEAD "LET US CHERISH WHAT WE HAVE," GUARDIAN
EDITORIAL SAID MANLEY STATEMENTS "APPEAR TO TEND
RETROSPECTIVELY TO GIVE CREDENCE TO HIS CRITICS' CHARGE
THAT HE INTENDS TO LAND JAMAICA IN THE COMMUNIST CAMP
ULTIMATELY."

3. GUARDIAN QUOTED MANLEY AS "VIGOROUSLY BLAMING IM-
PERIALISM FOR ALL THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, THE
EXPLOITATION AND THE SUPPRESSION AND THE ROBBERY OF
THE NATIONAL RESOURCES OF JAMICA AND OTHER DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES," BUT CONCLUDED THAT "MANLEY HAS RECENTLY
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WON A RESOUNDING ELECTION VICTORY AND CAN MAKE OF HIS
COUNTRY ANYTHING HE HAS THE RESOURCES TO DO."

4. EDITORIAL CONTINUED BY ASKING "IS THIS THE TIME
FOR HIM TO BE PRAISING THE BUBAN EXPERIMENT AS A
"MARVELLOUS EXAMPLE OF HOW SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS
ARE TO BE SOLVED?" USING ONE-SENTENCE PARAGRAPH FOR

EMPHASIS GUARDIAN ANSWERED "WE SHOULD THINK NOT."

5. GUARDIAN CONTINUED QUESTIONING BY ASKING "WHAT, IN ANY CASE, IS SO MARVELLOUS ABOUT THE CUBAN EXPERIMENT; NO CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT BY SECRET BALLOT FOR NEARLY 20 YEARS NOW? NO PRESS THAT DARES QUESTION ONE WORD OR ONE DEED OF THE GOVERNMENT? THE CHAINING OF PEOPLE TO TOIL IN THE STATE'S INTEREST, COME CHRISTMAS OR NOT?" EDITORIAL ADDED "WE IN THIS COUNTRY REJECT TOTALLY THE CUBAN EXPERIMENT AND ALL IT STANDS FOR."

6. UNDER HEAD "WHAT NOW, MR. MANLEY," EVENING NEWS EDITORIAL VOICED SIMILAR QUESTIONS. EDITORIAL SAID "MR. MANLEY IS QUOTED AS BEING A GREAT ADMINER OF THE RUSSIAN EXPERIENCE," AND ASKED "WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY THIS?"

7. EDITORIAL SAID "THE RUSSIAN EXPERIENCE', AS MR. MANLEY SURELY KNOWS, HAS TRAMPLED ON ALL THE FREE-DOMS, BOTH OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND INSTITUTIONS, WHICH WE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD HAVE COME TO CHERISH AND DEFEND." PAPER ASKED, "IS HE SAYING SUCH AN EXPERIENCE IS WHAT JAMAICA NOW NEEDS? IS NOT THIS TOYING WITH THE IDEA OF COMMUNISM, THE VERY CHARGE OF WHICH, HE ADMITTED IN DECEMBER, HAS DAMAGED THE REPUTATION OF HIS COUNTRY?"

8. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED THAT "MR. MANLEY MAY VERY WELL FIND OUT ONLY HIS PEOPLE IN JAMAICA, BUT HIS UNCLASSIFIED

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FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS BOTH IN AND OUT OF CARICOM; WILL NEED FURTHER ASSURANCES IN THE LIGHT OF SUCH PRESS REPORTS." ASKEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SPEECHES, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PORTO00422
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770050-0389
Format: TEL
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770249/aaaabrqb.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0fdef5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3339136
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION
TAGS: SOPN, TD, JM, UR, CU, (MANLEY, MICHAEL N)
To: USIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0fdef5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009